Waxman

Weldon (FL) Wexler Weygand Wise

1845

Mr. WELLER and Mr. HALL of Texas changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed en route. The plane just arrived. As a consequence I got in the House just a few minutes after the vote was closed. Had I been here, I would have voted in the affirmative.

Stated for:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 592, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" in support of H.J. Res. 123.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, I was away from the House on personal business. Accordingly, I was unable to cast certain rollcall votes. If I were present, I would have voted the following:

"Yes" on rollcall vote 586 on approving the Journal; "yes" on rollcall vote 587, H.J. Res. 122; "no" on rollcall vote 588; "yes" on rollcall vote 589; I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 590, H.R. 4577, a motion to instruct conferees; and I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 591, H.R. 4577.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, on October 19, I was away from the House on a personal matter, and I was unable to cast a rollcall vote. However, if I were present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 540, H.R. 4541, the motion to pass the Commodity Futures Modernization Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 30 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 583. In addition, yesterday due to pressing business back in my district, I missed rollcall vote 591. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 583 and 591.

DEMOCRATIC LEADER MISSES PRECEDING VOTE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we returned tonight once again to do the business of the people in an effort, even at this late date, to put people before politics. How sad it was to note in the rollcall vote that just preceded that our colleague from Missouri, the minority leader, the Democratic leader of this House, was absent. I hope there is no personal concern that took him home. In fact, we understand that he may be home campaigning in stark contrast to his public comments.

Mr. Speaker, tonight this is the situation that confronts us. Most of us are here working in Washington, D.C., working. But I would show you the Midwest, the great State of Missouri. Our friend, the Democratic leader, who said it was so important to stay here and do our work, it appears he is home campaigning, Mr. Speaker; and our friend, the President of the United States, is campaigning in California. Curiouser and curiouser the conduct of those in whom the public trust is placed.

THIS SESSION IS OVER

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take issue with the last speaker. It is very obvious that the Republican leadership has no intention of doing any more work here in the House of Representatives. There is barely a majority here to even vote on any measure. The Senate has already left. The other body has already left. To suggest in any way to the American people after having spent 2 years without passing a Patients' Bill of Rights, without passing a Medicare prescription drug benefit, without doing anything with regard to education initiatives that somehow this House or the other body are going to do some work over the next few days before the election is patently absurd.

Let us not kid the American people. This session is over. I am here and a lot of us are here, but we know very well that no work could possibly be done and the Republicans have failed to accomplish anything for the American people. They might as well admit it rather than keeping on with this rhetoric this evening.

BIPARTISANSHIP

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I think we ought not to try to do, I mean, I do not mind it if somebody wants to argue on one side of the issue or on the other side of the issue, but you really ought not to try to argue on both sides of the issue.

The gentleman from New Jersey just stood up and said we did not pass a Medicare prescription drug bill. Perhaps he ought to check C-SPAN. I just finished watching a press conference of his leader, Mr. GEPHARDT, and the Senate leader, Mr. DASCHLE. The gentleman from Missouri was reviewing the bipartisan legislation that the Democrats were instrumental in passing. Now, we were pleased that five Democrats joined with us, they were the difference in the majority, in passing a Medicare prescription drug measure off the floor of the House. But the gentleman from Missouri just took credit for that prescription drug measure passing the House, saying that is evidence of their bipartisan nature.

Come on. Figure it out. One side or the other. But do not be on both sides of your mouth.

A FAILED CONGRESS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we have spent 2 years here, 2 years; and the majority in this House that told us the trains were going to run on time, the train has crashed into the barrier here because they have not been able to have the trains run on time.

We did pass in this House a bipartisan bill for a Patients' Bill of Rights. We passed a bipartisan bill for campaign finance reform. We have bipartisan agreement on common sense gun safety legislation. We could have done something about a Medicare prescription drug benefit where all of our seniors were covered. The very fact of the matter is that the Republican leadership of this House is in the pocket of the special interests, refuses to pass any of this legislation, could not pass all of their appropriations bills, cannot get a budget off the ground, and do not know what to do to get out of here. They do not have a program; and if they had a program, they cannot get themselves organized to get it passed in this body. A failed Congress by any sense of the imagination.

WHO IS WORKING?

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me see if I have got this straight. The Democrats are complaining because we have not gotten our work done, but we are supposed to work out a compromise with the President and the minority. We are here working; we are here in Washington working.

That is right here. The minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), is over here in Missouri; and the President is out in Beverly Hills, California, campaigning. Who do you think is trying to get their work done?

WHO IS HERE?

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to share with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that he better not start labeling people who are not on the floor. I am too civil to get involved in the so-called Republican leaders that are not with us this evening, and so I will not engage in that.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?